



Bangladesh Development Research Center (BDRC)

2009 Research Report

This 2009 Research Report summarizes the main research activities of the Bangladesh Development Research Center Inc. (BDRC) between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. The year 2009 constitutes the second full year of the BDRC existence, following its incorporation on January 5, 2007. The research undertaken in 2009 follows the decision made at the first meeting of the Board of Directors on March 02, 2007, that the BDRC's research program is initially comprised of three topics: (1) Aid, Debt, and Development, (2) Climate Change, and (3) Bangladesh Development Strategies. In addition to these three Research Topics, the BDRC has undertaken and improved a variety of projects and tasks that imply indirect research activities.

I. BDRC Research Topics

I.1. Aid, Debt, and Development

The BDRC's research on aid, debt and development started in summer 2007. Following the presentation of a research paper, entitled "Aid, Debt, and Development: Synergies or Contradictions in Bangladesh" at an International Conference on "Bangladesh in the 21st Century" at Harvard University (June 13-14, 2008), the paper was revised and submitted for publication in a forthcoming book in February 2009. Based on the Dr. Gunter's broader research on aid and debt issues (jointly with others), he was invited to make a presentation on MDG-consistent debt sustainability at (a) a joint UN/UNDP seminar in New York in June and (b) a brown bag seminar at American University (jointly organized by the Economics Department and the School of International Service) in November.

I.2. Climate Change

BDRC staff continued with their research on climate change in Bangladesh by (a) updating the previously published comprehensive *Annotated Bibliography on Climate Change and Bangladesh* in January and May 2009 and (b) undertaking a new study on "The Impact of Development and Growth on CO₂ Emissions: A Case Study for Bangladesh until 2050" (jointly with Dr. Atiq Rahman at the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies). The study uses the example of Bangladesh to illustrate the impact of low-income countries' economic growth on global CO₂ emissions in 2050 by using a set of alternative assumptions for GDP growth and improvements in energy efficiency. The study was presented at the 5th bi-annual conference of the United States Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE) in Washington, DC, on June 1, 2009. The presentation is available on the BDRC website; the paper is in the process of being submitted for publication in an academic journal.

I.3. Bangladesh Development Strategies

Based on the research that began in 2007, the BDRC has formally published on January 01, 2009 a research paper in its Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series

that analyzes the substitution of wood with nonwood fibers for papermaking in Bangladesh. During 2009, the paper has been downloaded 52 times from the Social Science Research Network and 40 times from the RePEc website. A follow-up extended version of the working paper was then presented by Dr. Gunter at the International Conference on “Ideas and Innovations for the Development of Bangladesh: The Next Decade”, at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (October 9-10, 2009). The presentation is available on the BDRC website; the enhanced paper has been submitted for formal publication in a book based on selected papers presented at the Conference at Harvard University. BDRC staff also collaborated with two Bangladeshi researchers (Prof. Mohammad Nashir Uddin and Mr. Mohammad Hamiduzzaman at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) in Sylhet, Bangladesh) to examine the “Physical and Psychological Implications of Risky Child Labor: A Study in Sylhet City, Bangladesh”, which has been published as the eighth paper in the Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series in July 2009. The paper has been downloaded 18 times from the Social Science Research Network (within the first 6 months of publication) and 21 times from the RePEc website (within October-December 2009).

II. BDRC Projects

The BDRC has improved and enhanced all five projects that were initiated in 2007 (i.e., the Bangladesh Development Bibliography, Resources for Researchers, Tracking Bangladesh’s Ranking and Progress, Bangladesh Development Researchers, and News).

II.1. Bangladesh Development Bibliography

The Bangladesh Development Bibliography continues to be the world’s largest collection of publications (books, journal articles, working papers, reports, etc.) relevant for Bangladesh’s development. The number of items in this bibliography has increased from about 8,000 in January 2009 to over 12,000 at the end of December 2009. The bibliography is updated regularly, at least every three weeks. Indeed, it was updated 24 times in 2009.

II.2. Resources for Researchers

“Resources for Researchers” was the BDRC’s first project, aimed at providing useful internet resources on Bangladesh, mostly targeted at the international development community and development economists. These “Resources for Researchers” are provided freely in the following six lists on the BDRC website, which were improved and updated in 2009:

- a list of professional journals that publish articles related to Bangladesh development issues;
- a list with links to online Bangladesh development reports and Bangladesh country briefs;
- a list with links of official data sources; and
- a list with links to research organizations working on Bangladesh development issues.
- a list of resources related to universities in Bangladesh, and
- a list of / links to forthcoming and past conferences / fairs.

As was the case in 2008, all kind of researchers, policymakers, and even the general public interested in Bangladesh make frequently use of these free online resources.

II.3. Tracking Bangladesh’s Ranking and Progress

As of end 2009, the BDRC provides information on Bangladesh's Ranking and Relative Progress within five categories:

- Bangladesh's Ranking and Progress with regards to 15 specific indices/indicators
- Bangladesh's CPIA Scores, Rankings, and Progress
- Bangladesh's record with regards to six governance indicators from 1996-2007
- Bangladesh's ranking (for which only one year of data is available)
- Additional information and links

The various indicators provided in these five categories were updated in 2009 as new information became available.

II.4. Bangladesh Development Researchers

While no new lists have been created on Bangladesh Development Researchers in 2009, four out of the following seven lists provided by the BDRC have been updated regularly during 2009:

- Top International Awards received by Bangladeshi Development Researchers/Organizations.
 - In 2009, Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Dipal Chandra Barua have been added to this list for receiving, respectively, the 2009 Goldman Environmental Prize and the 2009 Zayed Future Energy Prize.
- Most Popular Bangladeshi Development Researchers (based on returns from a general Google search).
- Top Bangladesh Development Researchers (based on SSRN downloads).
- Top Bangladesh Development Researchers of the Millennium [defined as persons who have (co-)authored and/or (co-)edited at least 25 studies/reports within this Millennium].
 - This list has increased from some 100 researchers at the end of 2008 to about 120 researchers at the end of 2009.
- Other Major Bangladesh Development Researchers of the Millennium [defined as persons who have (co-) authored and/or (co-)edited at least 10 (though less than 25) studies/reports within this Millennium].
 - This list has increased from 25 researchers at the end of 2008 to 35 researchers at the end of 2009.
- RePEc-registered Bangladesh-related Economists [which provides a list of economists who (a) are registered with the RePEc Author Service and (b) have published items specifically on Bangladesh (as listed in RePEc)].
 - This list has increased from 25 researchers at the end of 2008 to 35 researchers at the end of 2009.
- All Bangladesh-related economists with publications listed in RePEc (pdf) [This is a list (compiled by the BDRC) of all Bangladesh-related Economists (those who are registered as well as those who are not registered with the RePEc Author Service) based on Bangladesh-related publications as listed in IDEAS/RePEc database (as of October 13, 2008).]

II. 5. News

The content within this BDRC project contains the following four lists or links, which have been improved and enhanced during 2009:

- Latest BDRC news/changes/additions
- Developmental Newsletters
- Some daily Bangladeshi newspapers
- Some Bangladeshi news websites

III. BDRC Tasks

Tasks are some combination of BDRC research and BDRC projects. Tasks were officially initiated on November 17, 2008, when the BDRC decided (in recognition of Universal Children's Day) to provide some information on Children of Bangladesh, though some parts of BDRC tasks had been created previously in other sections of the BDRC website. Within 2009, the most extensive additions have been made in the following four BDRC tasks:

III.1. Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series (BDRWPS)

Following the successful launch of this Working Paper Series in March 2008, the following six papers have been added to this series:

- **BDRWPS No. 9 (October 2009)**

Bt Brinjal: Introducing Genetically Modified Brinjal (Eggplant/Aubergine) in Bangladesh

by Mst. Meherunnahar and D. N. R. Paul

Also available at:

- http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1482803
- <http://ideas.repec.org/p/blr/wpaper/9.html>

- **BDRWPS No. 8 (July 2009)**

Physical and Psychological Implications of Risky Child Labor: A Study in Sylhet City, Bangladesh

by Mohammad Nashir Uddin, Mohammad Hamiduzzaman, and Bernhard G. Gunter

Also available at:

- http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1428206
- <http://ideas.repec.org/p/blr/wpaper/8.html>

- **BDRWPS No. 7 (June 2009)**

People's Participation in Health Services: A Study of Bangladesh's Rural Health Complex

by Mohammad Shafiqul Islam and Mohammad Woli Ullah

Also available at:

- http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1412874
- <http://ideas.repec.org/p/blr/wpaper/7.html>

- **BDRWPS No. 6 (May 2009)**

An Analysis of SAFTA in the Context of Bangladesh

by Md. Joynal Abdin

Also available at:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1404609
<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/6.html>

- **BDRWPS No. 5 (May 2009)**

Critical Factors of Women Entrepreneurship Development in Rural Bangladesh

by Faraha Nawaz

Also available at:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1403411
<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/5.html>

- **BDRWPS No. 4 (January 2009)**

Substituting Wood with Nonwood Fibers in Papermaking: A Win-Win Solution for Bangladesh

by M. Sarwar Jahan, Bernhard G. Gunter, and A. F. M. Ataur Rahman

Also available at:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1322292
<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/4.html>

The BDRWPS has been initiated to present the findings of work in progress to encourage the exchange of ideas about development issues in Bangladesh. The main objective is to disseminate findings and ideas quickly, compromising to some degree on quality. The papers are signed by the author(s) and should be cited and referred accordingly. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of the author(s). They do not necessarily represent the view of the BDRC. The invitation to submit manuscripts for publication in the BDRWPS is offered to all professionals as long as the topic is relevant to Bangladesh's development and the manuscript's quality measures up to the standard of the BDRWPS. Copyrights of the contents of the work submitted remain with the author(s) and/or the institution(s) submitting the work.

III.2. Jute - Golden Fiber

Recognizing that the United Nations' FAO declared 2009 as the International Year of Natural Fibers, the BDRC created on December 30, 2008 a new task on "Jute - Golden Fiber of the Past, also in the Future?". This task, which was updated during 2009, provides some general information on jute, some economic aspects of jute, some of the world's major jute institutes/organizations, and some major jute events.

III.3. Publications of the Moment

Recognizing some international days and events, the BDRC provided various lists with new publications related to the day/event and Bangladesh. These lists of publications were created before the day/event and are not updated. In 2009, the BDRC recognized and provided lists of publications for the following days:

- Feb. 21: International Mother Language Day/ Bangladeshi Language Martyrs' Day
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 22: World Water Day
- April 7: World Health Day
- April 25: World Malaria Day
- May 3: World Press Freedom Day
- June 5: World Environment Day
- August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- Sept. 8: International Literacy Day
- Oct. 16: World Food Day
- Oct. 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Nov. 14: World Diabetes Day
- Nov. 20: Universal Children's Day
- Nov. 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Dec. 1: World AIDS Day
- Dec. 10: Human Rights Day

Please see [Publications of the Moment](#) for further details.

III.4. Hot Topics / Features

Created at the end of 2008, the BDRC's task on "Hot Topics / Features" was continued throughout 2009, highlighting some important events and/or developments, which are of interest to the development community of Bangladesh. Excluding the recognized international days and the announcements of new papers in the Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series, the following were some of these features provided

during 2009:

- December 29, 2009 and December 13, 2009: Moderate Earthquakes Hit Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Tops Global Climate Risk Index
- December 11, 2009: Getting Police Reform on Track
- November 23, 2009: Critical Voices before run-up to Copenhagen
- November 16, 2009: ADB supports tourism in Bangladesh, India and Nepal
- October 26, 2009: Bangladesh and the Global Economic Crisis
- October 9-10, 2009: Ideas and Innovations for the Development of Bangladesh
- Bangladesh to host a center for climate change adaptation knowhow
- Eldis launches Bangladesh Group
- USAID seeks application for an education project
- July 13, 2009: Towards an MDG-consistent debt sustainability framework
- Questioning the impact of microcredit or questioning the art of econometrics?
- How do you see development?
- July 5, 2009: AHN Media reports record \$9.68 Billion Remittances in FY 2008/2009
- Development assistance for health does not always go to countries that need it most
- Bangladesh expects its economy to grow at 6 percent in FY 2009/2010
- Cyclone Aila kills nearly 200 in Bangladesh and India
- May 18, 2009: Human Rights Watch releases report on executions and torture in Bangladesh
- Syeda Rizwana Hasan wins the 2009 Goldman Environmental Prize
- April 22, 2009: Bangladesh faces diarrhoea epidemic
- April 19, 2009: Bangladesh economy has exhibited resilience so far
- April 2, 2009: Updated Poverty Maps for Bangladesh
- World Bank Seeks to Improve Higher Education in Bangladesh
- Breakthrough solutions for transitioning Bangladesh to the 21st century
- Saving Bangladesh from sinking due to sea level rise (New Age Op-Ed, Feb. 14, 2009)
- February 11, 2009: South Asia has the highest rates of malnutrition
- February 04, 2009: Dr. Muhammad Yunus to Speak in Washington, DC
- February 02, 2009: Bangladesh Government approved Climate Change Trust Policy
- January 18, 2009: Free access to Journal of Bangladesh Studies (JBS)
- January 03, 2009: BDRC publishes its 2008 Research Report

Please see [Hot Topics / Features](#) for further details.